

May 12 1959

Synopsis of State and Intelligence material reported to the President

IRAQ

In a long interview with Nasser on Saturday, Hare raised the question of Syria's need for economic aid and the UAR's failure so far to present its needs specifically. Nasser said there was confusion resulting from the imprecise nature of Syrian agreement with the USSR, which had talked of little except "studies, studies, studies." He had become impatient with these dilatory tactics. Hare emphasized we were not trying to drum up business but wished to make clear that mention of need for aid in Syria by Nasser himself had not progressed to the point of specific suggestions. We would not want to be placed in a position of having it said later that we had failed to respond to a request which in fact had never been made. Nasser said he understood this.

Hare found Nasser's thinking on Qasim very much like ours. Despite somber aspects of the Iraqi situation, Nasser felt there were a few hopeful glimmerings. He made clear he did not wish to obstruct any constructive developments in Iraq. Agreeing in principle with the desirability of closing Arab ranks to the Communist menace, the UAR leader nevertheless saw practical difficulties arising from extraneous circumstances. Nasser said he had no plans whatsoever for renewing full relations with the British. Referring to the UK's decision to supply materiel to Iraq, he said the British had not yet made their views known to him.

✓ TURKEY

Minister of Defense Etem Menderes, whose relations with the prime minister and other Democratic leaders have become seriously strained, claims that if the present repressive tendencies of the Democratic regime continue, military leaders will intervene and a dictatorship will result. Menderes' views are probably colored by his own political ambitions. There is, however, information from other sources regarding the stringent measures the government has taken and is planning to take against the opposition.



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WEST GERMANY

West German and West Berlin political leaders have given up their previous opposition to the acceptance of the East Germans as Soviet "agents" in operating checkpoints on the routes to Berlin. They are more firmly opposed than ever, however, to any change in West Berlin's status or in the four-power responsibility for the entire city.

*John S. Eisenhower*

